

REMARKS

Claims 10-29 are now active in this application. These claims are supported in Claims 1-9, page 17; second and third paragraph; and the paragraph bridging pages 15-16. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Proposed drawing corrections for Figures 8 and 9 are submitted herewith.

The present invention as submitted in the new claims are directed to methods of increasing drought resistance of a plant with a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising SEQ ID NO:2 (see Claim 10); a polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO:3; or a nucleotide sequence hybridizing to SEQ ID NO:3 (see Claim 18). In addition, the present claims are directed to methods of increasing the resistance of a plant to high salt condition with a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:2 (see Claim 14); a polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO:3; or a sequence which hybridizes to SEQ ID NO:3 (see Claim 24). This method is described throughout the specification and, in particular, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the disclosure in paragraphs 2 and 3 on page 17 discussing the introduction these polynucleotides to increase drought resistance and/or resistance to high salt conditions. In addition, the examples presented in the specification, for example, on page 20 and Figure 6 demonstrate "transgenic plants excessively expressing AtGolS2 gene were confirmed to possess drought resistance superior to the plant showing suppressed expression of AtGolS2 gene and to the plants with control vectors." Accordingly, the present claims are deemed to be both adequately described and enabled under the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph and as such withdrawal of both grounds of rejection 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph is requested.

The objection to Claim 1 is obviated by the cancellation of this claim.

The objection to Claims 1, 3-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is obviated by the cancellation of these claims.

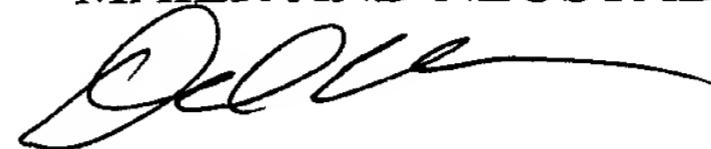
The rejection of Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Bachmann et al. is obviated by the cancellation of Claim 6.

Bachmann et al. does not describe a polynucleotide encoding SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3 or a that which hybridizes to SEQ ID NO:3. Therefore, Bachmann et al cannot describe increasing drought resistance or resistance of a plant to high salt conditions by introducing a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:2; which nucleotide sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:3; or that which hybridizes to SEQ ID NO:3 as in the present claims. Therefore, the present claims are not anticipated by Bachmann et al. and as such withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is ready for allowance. Early notification of such allowance is kindly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER AND NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon
Registration No. 24,618
Attorney of Record

Daniel J. Pereira
Registration No. 45,518



22850

Tel.: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220

Docket No.: 204936US0X

Marked-Up Copy

Serial No: 09/810,506

Amendment Filed on: HEREWITH

IN THE CLAIMS

1-9. (Canceled).

10-29. (New).